

21st Century Community Learning Center Evaluation Summary Fredericktown RI

Afterschool programs are an evidence-based strategy for helping students meet challenging academic standards, improve attendance and graduation rates, and develop college and career readiness skills and behaviors. The federally funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program provides competitive grant funding to districts to implement before and after-school and summer enrichment programs that support and enhance student outcomes. Fredericktown R-1 received a 21st CCLC grant in 2014. The afterschool program operates 4 in two ELEMENTARIES, one MIDDLE, and one HIGH SCHOOL, serving 721 STUDENTS.

Each year, 21st CCLC grantees undergo an external evaluation process that reviews their progress related to three broad afterschool goals: 1) academic improvement and efficacy, 2) program quality, and 3) youth outcomes. During the 2017-18 school year, each site recorded attendance and grades data, received a Program Quality Assessment (PQA) observation, and completed a series of afterschool surveys with responses from 574 youth, 180 families, 100 program staff, 8 school administrators. A certified external evaluator met with the program administrator to review data and complete a Guided Reflection Document. Results from the annual external evaluation ensure grant compliance and influence continuous quality improvement efforts including modifying the program curricula and enrichment activities and planning professional development for staff.

Goal 1: Academic Achievement and Efficacy

Afterschool programs provide a full range of academic support including homework help, tutoring, academic enrichment, and comprehensive integrated units directly tied to the state standards. They provide activities that complement rather than replicate the school day. .

The Fredericktown RI Afterschool Program has a well-rounded program, filled with a variety of enrichment... and academic programs for all students who attend in the district. Students in the program can receive tutoring and homework assistance before and after school from an experienced staff of certified teachers. Staff is available to assist in core subject areas as needed in grades K-12.

Not only can students receive assistance in regular school day assignments, they can participate in a spectrum of enrichment activities that are offered, which include but are not limited to STEM, music and drama; art, reading groups, chess, Minecraft, *Project Lead the Way* (coding), and team sports. At all levels STEM classes are offered which improve student interest in science and math, as well as meet the Missouri Learning Standards. Lego Lab, an engineering class

(Building Zone) is just one example that students can attend.

To improve student interest in reading as well as reading grades, reading clubs (Book Busters and Reading Ring) have been developed. A math club (Crazy Eight) was also formed to improve student math scores, and . data supported these initiatives.

Goal 2: Program Quality

Research shows that high quality afterschool programs help close the achievement gap and reduce the likelihood of youth participating in risk-taking behaviors. The 21st CCLC grant recipients participate in an ongoing quality improvement process that includes the point-of-service experience of youth, school day linkages, family connections, and community involvement.

With such a high poverty rate and so many of the district students in foster care, the need for such an active. program as Fredericktown is great. Students who might not be able to receive assistance at home can participate in the after school program and not only receive help in the academic realm but are served snacks and dinner, as well as receive district transportation home after the program. The program is open until 6:00 PM Monday through Thursday, and remains open late at two sites until 7:00 on Thursdays.

Students feel safe and supported in this program at all four sites. Student interest surveys are provided for input so that students feel that they are a part. Staff remains solid with little turnover which lends to a staff that is familiar with all students attending, in which they are able to address their individual needs.

Several community members assist in some of the enrichment programs such, martial arts, and adult exercise. Some mentor program in the academic area and have provided job shadowing for the older students. At the intermediate level, a local member of the University Extension Center teaches a nutrition/gardening class. Local civic and church groups provide some funding for field trips for the students.

Adults are also invited to participate in activities which improve awareness of the program as well as a feeling of inclusion in the program. Some of these examples are a walking club and "Pound Drumming," which is well attended by adults in the community: Parents are also invited to technology night and programs to better prepare their students for college, Hunter Education courses, and welding classes.

Overall, the program is greatly supported and expansive for such a high poverty area.

Goal 3: Youth Outcomes

Afterschool program also offer non-academic benefits that support the student's development of college and career readiness skills including positive school behaviors (e.g., regular attendance), personal and social skills (e.g., time management, team work, critical thinking), and commitment to learning (e.g., initiative, homework completion, study skills).

Since the district is a PBS school, staff is well versed on the expectations of that behavioral program, and that is carried over into the after school program. Both staff and students know the guidelines and abide by them. This program assists with social and personal skills, as well. It was noted that students who regularly attend the program have an overall more positive attitude toward school in general.

At the secondary level, students can participate in life skills classes such as sewing, cooking, and service projects. High school students can receive assistance with college prep, FASFA, credit recovery and attendance recovery, which better prepares them for life after their high school education. There is also an entrepreneur class offered at this level.

Students who attend before and after school are assisted with homework completion and improved study skills. The staff to student ratio remains low, so that students can receive concentrated instruction. Programs such as AIMS web and USA Prep are used to better analyze data for student growth and instruction.. .

Through STEM activities, students learn team work and critical thinking, and this is at all levels in the program. An annual performance is also presented by students of the program for the public, which is well attended and very beneficial for all those participating as it creates positive behavior and improved social skills.

This program is very active and focused on youth outcomes at all **levels**, as some of the examples demonstrate. The program staff and **directors** have a firm background in the afterschool goals and its ideas.. It is a very well-managed, caring program. For more information, contact Shannon Henson at 573-783-2570 or (shannon.henson@blackcatsk12.org).